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FORTY-FIFTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE YEAR 1945.

HINDLEY:
FRED BRADLEY & SON LTD.
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Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Hindley,

To the Chairman and Members of the Hindley Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1945.

The Report is again much abbreviated, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, but an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

**Medical Officer of Health, and
Divisional School Medical Officer:**

G. H. POTTER, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Consultant Obstetrician:

C. H. WALSH, M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Consultant Pathologist and Bacteriologist:

G. A. CARY LYNCH, M.D., D.P.H.

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon:

H. B. BARKER, M.B.B.S., LOND., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dental Surgeon: - - - - W. CLEGG, L.D.S., R.C.S.
(Resigned February, 1946).

Sanitary Inspectors:

THOS. FRANCE (Chief).

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute;
Associate Member, Institute of Sanitary Engineers;
Meat Inspector's Certificates:—
Royal Sanitary Institute;
Liverpool University.

J. H. PLATT (Additional).

Certificate, S.I.B.;
Associate Member, Royal Sanitary Institute;
Meat Inspector's Certificate—Liverpool University.
(Resigned 31st December, 1945).

Health Visitors:

Miss M. SNOWDEN, S.R.N., S.C.M., CERT.R.S.I.
Miss E. L. SMELTZER, S.R.N., S.C.M., CERT.R.S.I.

Isolation Hospital:

Mr. and Mrs. J. DILLON, Caretakers.

Clerical Staff:

R. WILLIAMS (H.M. Forces).
Miss E. RIGBY.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 2,612.21 acres.

Population (Census 1931): 21,629.

Estimated mid-1945 (Registrar General): 18,110.

Total Number of Houses (Census 1931): 5,140.

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1945 according to Rate Books: 5,569.

Rateable Value: £70,846.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £272 8s. 6d.

Hindley is essentially an industrial area. A cotton mill, a weaving shed, a paint works and a steel scaffolding works give employment to both sexes.

VITAL STATISTICS.

| | | Male | Female | TOTAL |
|------------------------|-----|------|--------|-------|
| Live Births—Legitimate | ... | 169 | 158 | 327 |
| Illegitimate | ... | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| TOTAL | | 177 | 163 | 340 |

| | | Male | Female | TOTAL |
|-------------------------|-----|------|--------|-------|
| Still Births—Legitimate | ... | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| Illegitimate | ... | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| TOTAL | | 7 | 5 | 12 |

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—

| | | Male | Female | TOTAL |
|--------------|-----|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | ... | 11 | 10 | 21 |
| Illegitimate | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | | 11 | 10 | 21 |

DEATHS ... 131 109 240

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-194518.7

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population13.2

| | |
|---|-----|
| Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births..... | 34 |
| No. of Women dying in, or in consequence of Pregnancy and Childbirth: | |
| From Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis..... | Nil |
| From other maternal causes | 1 |
| Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births due to | |
| Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis | Nil |
| Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:— | |
| All Infants per 1,000 live births..... | 61 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births..... | 64 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births..... | Nil |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 29 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | Nil |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)..... | Nil |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)..... | 2 |

TABLE 1.

Per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

Mean of 5 years—

| | Live Birth Rate | Crude Death Rate | Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | Cancer Death Rate |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1940—1944 | 18.1 | 14.3 | 0.42 | 1.77 |
| 1944 | 20.8 | 13.5 | 0.38 | 2.09 |
| 1945 | 18.7 | 13.2 | 0.16 | 1.60 |
| Increase or Decrease in 1945 on— 5 years' average 1940 — 1944 | + 0.6 | —1.1 | —0.17 | —0.17 |
| —on Previous year's average— | —2.1 | —0.3 | —0.49 | —0.49 |

Maternal Mortality Rate

| | Per 1000 Live Births | Per 1000 Total (Live & Still Births | Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Live Births |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| Mean of 5 years— | | | |
| 1940—1944 | 4.12 | 3.94 | 57 |
| 1944 | 5.29 | 5.12 | 60 |
| 1945 | 2.94 | 2.84 | 61 |
| Increase or Decrease in 1945 on— 5 years' average 1940 — 1944 | —1.18 | —1.10 | + 4 |
| —on Previous year's average— | —2.35 | —2.28 | + 1 |

TABLE 11.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1945 and Previous Years.

| YEAR. | Population estimated to middle of each year. | BIRTHS. | | | TOTAL DEATHS registered in the district. | | TRANSFERABLE DEATHS | | NETT DEATHS belonging to the district. | | | |
|-------|--|----------------------|---------|-------|--|-------|--|--|--|----------------------------|--------------|-------|
| | | Un-corrected number. | NETT. | | Number. | Rate. | of Non-Residents registered in the district. | of Residents not registered in the district. | Under 1 year of age. | | At all ages. | |
| | | | Number. | Rate. | | | | | Number. | Rate per 1000 Nett Births. | Number. | Rate. |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 1939 | 19760 | 224 | 280 | 13.9 | 179 | 9.0 | 4 | 70 | 9 | 31.0 | 245 | 12.1 |
| 1940 | 18560 | 245 | 294 | 15.8 | 214 | 11.5 | 1 | 94 | 18 | 60.0 | 307 | 16.5 |
| 1941 | 18580 | 249 | 282 | 15.8 | 248 | 12.8 | 2 | 73 | 24 | 80.3 | 319 | 13.3 |
| 1942 | 18320 | 253 | 344 | 19.4 | 260 | 14.1 | 2 | 91 | 12 | 33.0 | 349 | 19.0 |
| 1943 | 18090 | 239 | 330 | 18.9 | 170 | 9.3 | 3 | 89 | 18 | 52.0 | 256 | 14.1 |
| 1944 | 18110 | 235 | 370 | 20.8 | 160 | 8.8 | 1 | 86 | 23 | 60.0 | 245 | 13.5 |
| 1945 | 18110 | 188 | 340 | 18.7 | 156 | 8.6 | 5 | 89 | 21 | 61.0 | 240 | 13.2 |

Subjoined is a Table showing the causes of the Deaths among Infants under one year of age.

TABLE III.
ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS.

| CAUSE OF DEATH | Total at all periods up to 1 yr. | Under 1 mth. | 1—3 months | 4—6 months | 7—9 months | 10—11 months |
|--|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Premature Birth | 3 | 3 | — | — | — | — |
| Bronchitis and Pneumonia | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | — | — |
| Gastro Enteritis | 2 | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Congenital Syphilis | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Infective Jaundice | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Spina Bifida | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Congenital Heart Disease | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Atelectasis of both Lungs | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Intracranial Haemorrhage | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Congenital Atresia of Bile Duct | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| | 21 | 9 | 7 | 5 | — | — |

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1945, as compared with the previous year.

TABLE IV.

| Cause of Death. | No. of Deaths 1945 | No. of Deaths 1944 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Enteric Fever | — | — |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever | 1 | 1 |
| Measles | — | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | — | 1 |
| Diphtheria | 3 | — |
| Scarlet Fever... .. | — | — |
| Influenza | 1 | — |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | 3 | 1 |
| Phthisis | 3 | 7 |
| Other Tubercular Diseases... .. | 2 | 4 |
| Cancer | 29 | 38 |
| Heart Disease | 59 | 54 |
| Bronchitis | 17 | 16 |

T A B L E I V. (continued).

| Cause of Death | No. of Deaths | | No. of Deaths | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| | 1945 | | 1944 | |
| Pneumonia | ... | 12 | ... | 15 |
| Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | ... | 2 | ... | 3 |
| Puerperal Sepsis | ... | — | ... | 1 |
| Other Diseases of Parturition | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Suicide | ... | — | ... | 3 |
| Accidents | ... | 10 | ... | 9 |
| Other Diseases | ... | 97 | ... | 90 |
| | | <hr/> 240 | | <hr/> 245 |

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Laboratories of Wigan Royal Infirmary and York Place, Manchester, and the arrangements are satisfactory. A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department.

During 1945 reports were made to the Authority on the following specimens: 95 Throat Swabs, 2 samples of Water, 43 samples of Milk, and 17 Faeces.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

Infectious cases were removed to Hospital in the motor ambulance of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board or the Council's own Ford ambulance during the year 1945.

During the same year Non-Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with by either the motor ambulances belonging jointly to the Urban Districts of Hindley, Ince and Abram, or by the motor ambulances belonging to the Wigan Borough Police.

The arrangements made with the neighbouring Authorities and Leigh Joint Hospital Board for the use of Infectious and Non-Infectious Ambulances, ensured that the ambulance facilities for the area were adequate.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Home Nursing is carried out in the area by the two Nurses employed by the Hindley District Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the Lancashire County Nursing Association.

The District Nurses do not nurse cases of infectious disease, nor do they act as midwives or maternity nurses.

The Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts for the area, is the Lancashire County Council. Three midwives are allocated to Hindley.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Ante-natal Clinic is held at the Central Clinic, White House, Liverpool Road, on alternate Wednesday afternoons at 2-45 p.m., and is conducted by Mr. C. H. Walsh, M.B., F.R.C.O.G.

Child Welfare Clinics are held at the Central Clinic on Monday and Thursday afternoons from 2-0—4-0 p.m.

As part of the School Medical Service, Minor Ailment Clinics are held daily and Dental Clinics on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. These Clinics are held at the Central Clinic, Liverpool Road, which is combined for the Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical Services.

Orthopaedic defects among pre-school and school children are dealt with under the Lancashire County Council Scheme. The Orthopaedic Surgeon attends on the first and third Mondays in each month at the School Clinic, Library Street, Wigan, and the Orthopaedic Nurse attends each Monday morning.

HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

General Medical and Surgical:—

Ancoats Infirmary, Manchester; Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and Salford Royal Infirmary; Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary; Bolton Infirmary; Billinge Hospital and Leigh Infirmary.

Children:—Pendlebury Children's Hospital and Ancoats Infirmary.

Venereal Diseases:—Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary.

Tuberculosis:—County Sanatoria and Hospital.

Chronic Sick:—Billinge Hospital.

Mental Diseases:—County Mental Hospitals.

Ear, Nose and Throat:—Manchester and Wigan Infirmaries.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia:—Arrangements with Leigh Joint Hospital Board.

A sum of £100 is contributed by the Hindley Urban District Council to the Manchester and Salford Charities' Fund. This sum is there apportioned to the various Hospitals in Manchester and Salford.

These facilities are duly appreciated and freely used by the inhabitants of Hindley.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply is conducted from the Rivington water main of the Liverpool Corporation to a service reservoir at Westhoughton, from which it is distributed throughout the district. The supply is constant, good and sufficient, and the possibilities of contamination are very slight.

The piped supply of water to the township was examined twice bacteriologically and once chemically during the year 1945, and found to be satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main, with the exception of 10 houses, containing 50 persons, in the fields, which depend on supply from standpipes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Drainage System is of the usual type; storm water and sewage being carried away in a common sewer.

The reconstruction of the Platt Bridge Sewage Works is in progress.

Drain testing, flushing, etc., is carried out as required.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been required with regard to the pollution of streams.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1945) :

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number of Privy Middens | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
| Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens | | | | 46 |
| Number of Pail Closets | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Number of Freshwater Closets... | ... | ... | ... | 5700 |
| Number of Waste Water Closets | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Number of Dry Ashpits for Refuse | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Number of Moveable Ashbins for Refuse | ... | ... | ... | 5671 |
| Number of Houses on Water Carriage System | | | | 5438 |

No conversions were made during 1945.

Fresh water closet accommodation is provided for all new property erected in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Street Scavenging and removal of House Refuse were carried out by the Local Authority, under the supervision of the Surveyor.

Privy middens and ashbins are emptied regularly by day throughout the year, and 4 horse-drawn vehicles and one motor vehicle are engaged in the removal of refuse to tips.

There is no destructor in the district.

The Hindley Green refuse collection is let out by contract.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|------|
| Number of premises visited ... | ... | 969 |
| Number of Nuisances discovered ... | ... | 1063 |
| Number of Nuisances abated... | ... | 898 |
| Number of Informal Notices served... | | 332 |
| Number of Statutory Notices served | | 44 |
| Number of Legal Proceedings | ... | — |

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices, and to sanitary conveniences.

CAMPING SITES.

There are none in the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No special action has been taken with regard to smoke abatement.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the district.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

14 houses were found to be infested and were dealt with by spraying with Zaldecide, D.D.T., or by fumigation with Hydrogen Cyanide.

Periodical inspection of houses is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The Knackers Yard is kept under constant supervision by the Sanitary Inspector, and trade is carried on there without offence.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Regular visits were paid to factories and workshops under the Factories Act, 1937, and their condition was found satisfactory.

SCHOOLS.

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient.

Regular lime-washing of conveniences is arranged for by the Education Authority in the case of all Schools in the area.

4. HOUSING.

The township consists chiefly of working class houses, which are built in rows, and old in type.

The standard of repair has been well maintained, despite the great difficulties of shortage of labour and building materials.

The worst cases of pre-war overcrowding were relieved, but the situation is bad again, owing to servicemen's families having to live with their parents, due to an actual shortage of houses.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| (a) Total (including numbers given separately under | (b) | --- |
| (i) By the Local Authority | — | |
| (ii) By other Authorities | — | |
| (iii) By other bodies and persons | — | |
| (b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts: | | |
| (i) By the Local Authority | — | |
| (iii) By other bodies and persons | — | |

1. INSPECTION of dwelling-houses during the year:

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)... 702
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 702
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 & 1932 —
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose approx. —
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation —
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation... 605

REMEDY OF DEFECTS during the year without service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 586

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the year:

A —Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices
- (a) By owners —
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 164
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices
 - (a) By owners 83
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made —
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:

- (a) Revised survey necessary to ascertain a reasonably accurate position.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year —
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year —
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases —

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

An adequate supply of milk is produced within, or brought into the district.

During 1945, 8 samples of milk were examined by the biological test for Tuberculosis and were found satisfactory, 35 samples of milk were also submitted for bacteriological examination, the standards adopted being the Methylene Blue, Phosphatase and Coliform Tests. 11 samples were satisfactory and 24 unsatisfactory.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops in the district have been regularly inspected, and at all times their condition has been found satisfactory.

When a cow is suspected of suffering from any disease, the County Police arrange for a local Veterinary Surgeon to examine the animal.

There are 22 Milk Purveyors (including 17 Cowkeepers) in the district. 13 Licences for the sale of Pasteurised Milk have been issued to retail distributors, and 1 Licence in respect of the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk was granted during the year.

The approximate number of cows in the district is 300.

The sum of £468 was spent voluntarily on improvements to cowsheds, etc., at two farms during the year.

(b) MEAT.—There are no slaughterhouses open in the district.

Routine inspections are made of meatshops, etc., and the Clean Meat Regulations are enforced. All diseased meat is at once seized by the Sanitary Inspector.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1945, cases of Infectious Disease, requiring hospital treatment, were removed to the Astley Sanatorium of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board, by agreement.

32 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as against 33 in 1944, and of the 32 cases, 18 were removed to hospital for treatment.

28 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, compared with 12 in the previous year. Of the 28 cases, 26 were removed to hospital for treatment, where 3 proved fatal.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Town Hall, and at the Hindley Police Station, and are always available to the medical practitioners.

Contacts of cases of Diphtheria have been excluded from school, and kept under close observation.

As stated earlier in the Report, 95 Throat Swabs were reported upon to the Authority by the Wigan Infirmary Laboratory.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school-child, and is performed by local Medical Practitioners at the Central Clinic. During 1945, 154 pre-school and 58 school children were immunised with two injections of Alum precipitated Toxoid.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

No immunisation against the Enteric Group was undertaken during 1945.

Measles of a mild type was prevalent during the year.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera.

56 cases of Scabies were treated during the year, at the Cleansing Station, established at the Gas Yard.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remains high, and the cases of infestation by head lice dealt with at the Clinic were few, and were successfully treated with Lethane Oil and D.D.T. Emulsion.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1945.

TABLE V.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease notified; number of Deaths from these Diseases; number of cases removed to Hospital; and Deaths in Hospital during the year 1945.

| DISEASES | Total Cases all ages | under 1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-35 | 35-45 | 45-65 and over | Total Deaths to Hospital | Deaths in Hospital persons belon'g to district |
|--|-------------------------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Smallpox | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | 32 | — | — | 2 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 6 | — | 1 | — | — | 18 | — |
| Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup... | 28 | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 3 | 3 | 4 | — | — | 26 | 3 |
| Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Acute Primary and Influenza Pneumonia.. | 17 | 3 | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 4 | 1 | 4 | — | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dysentery | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Erysipelas | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles (excluding German Measles) | 50 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 11 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTALS | 138 | 8 | 5 | 17 | 13 | 15 | 44 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 16 | 47 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 |

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of premises and materials is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department.

All dwelling-houses are dealt with on death, removal to hospital, or release from isolation of infectious cases.

During 1945, 80 houses were disinfected by the Department.

Houses are disinfected by the method of Formalin Spray or Sulphur Dioxide, and it is usual in the district, to disinfect after Phthisis, but not as routine after Measles.

The Steam Disinfector at the Gas Yard, Cross Street, was utilised for the Disinfection of the Clothing, Bedding, etc., of patients not removed to hospital.

CANCER.

29 deaths (16 male and 13 female) were certified as due to Cancer during the year, compared with 38 in 1944.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Hindley residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose, is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No local action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

The administration of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, is undertaken in this area by the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This service is under the control of the Lancashire County Council, and Hindley cases attend at the County Dispensary in Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan.

24 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1945, 15 being cases of Pulmonary, and 9 cases of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 3 deaths from Pulmonary, and 2 from non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered during the year.

Notification of the disease in the district is quite satisfactory, and no action has been necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal of tuberculous patients to Hospital.

The subjoined Table shows the new cases of Tuberculosis and the deaths in age groups.

TABLE VI.

TUBERCULOSIS.

| Age Periods | NEW CASES. | | | | DEATHS. | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|---|----------------------|---|------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| | Respiratory M | F | Non-Respiratory M | F | Respiratory M | F | Non-Respiratory M | F |
| 0—1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1—5 | — | — | 3 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| 5—10 | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| 10—15 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15—20 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 20—25 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 25—35 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — |
| 35—45 | 4 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 45—55 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 55—65 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 & up- wards | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Totals ... | 10 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | — |
| | 15 | | | | 9 | | | |
| | 3 | | | | 2 | | | |

7. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Central Clinic on Mondays and Thursdays, from 2-0—4-0 p.m.

The babies are weighed, and advice is given to the mothers about themselves and their infants, by the Medical Officer and the Nurses.

The Ante-Natal Clinic is conducted by C. H. Walsh, Esq., M.B., F.R.C.O.G., and is held fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons at 2-45 p.m.

During 1945, 230 expectant mothers attended the Clinic, making a total number of 685 attendances.

In addition, the Health Visitors paid 210 first visits, and a total number of 281 visits to expectant mothers at their homes.

Dental treatment is provided for expectant mothers, recommended by the Surgeon at the Ante-Natal Clinics.

There are no Maternity Homes in the district, nor is there any institutional provision for dealing with unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children within the district.

In pursuance of Circular 2866 of the Ministry of Health, Hindley has joined in the Scheme of the Lancashire County Council, for the care of Illegitimate Children in the area.

Expectant and nursing mothers and premature infants can be admitted to Billinge Hospital, Wigan Infirmary, and hospitals at Liverpool and Manchester. No arrangements have been made for the provision of emergency units or home helps.

In accordance with Circular 20/44 of the Ministry of Health, dealing with the care of premature infants, all notifications of birth received indicate the birth weight of the infant, and the period of gestation.

The Health Visitors pay particular attention to all premature infants. During 1945, 13 babies weighed $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less at birth, 7 being born at home, and 6 in hospital.

The 7 babies born at home were nursed entirely at home, and 5 survived at the end of one month, none dying during the first 24 hours.

Of the 6 babies born in hospital, one died during the first 24 hours, and 5 survived at the end of one month.

The Nurses reported as follows on the Infant Welfare work—

| | | |
|--|------|------|
| Number of First Visits to new babies | ... | 316 |
| Number of Supervision Visits—under one year | 1959 | |
| Number of Supervision Visits—over one year and up to five years | 968 | |
| | ———— | 2927 |

Number of children who attended at the Clinic
for the first time during the year:—

| | | |
|---|--------|-----|
| (a) Children under one year of age | ... | 282 |
| (b) Children between the ages of one year and five years | ... .. | 7 |
| | ———— | 289 |

In accordance with the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, arrangements were made with the Wigan Infirmary for the provision of consultant advice, and bacteriological examinations, when requested by the medical practitioner, while home nursing of these cases is taken over by the Home Visitors from the attendant Midwives. Cases requiring hospital treatment are removed to Astley Sanatorium. No cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year.

Maternal Deaths are investigated by the staff of the County Medical Officer, with the co-operation of the District Medical Officer.

Orthopaedic treatment for children under five years of age is carried out under the Lancashire County Scheme at the Wigan Clinic, in close co-operation with the similar treatment of school children under the School Medical Service. X-Ray and Sunlight cases receive treatment at the Wigan Infirmary and Manchester Royal Infirmary, while operation cases are admitted to the Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital.

Under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926 to 1937, the home nursing of Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases is undertaken by the Health Visitors, while cases requiring hospital treatment would be sent to the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.

Cases occurring during 1945 are classified as follows:—

—Ophthalmia Cases—

| Number Notified at Home | Treated at Home | Treated in Hospital | Vision Unimpaired | Vision Impaired | Total Blindness | Deaths |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

The Health Visitors act as Infant Protection Visitors for the discharge of the functions of the Local Authority under Part VII of the Public Health Act, 1936.

TABLE VII.

Causes of and Ages at Death for the Year 1945.

| Causes of Death. | Net Deaths at the subjoined Ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District. | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--------|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|-----|
| | Under 1 | 1 to 2 | 2 to 5 | 5 to 15 | 15 to 25 | 25 to 45 | 45 to 65 | 65 and Up. | All ages | |
| | M F | M F | M F | M F | M F | M F | M F | M F | M | F |
| 1—Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 2—Cerebro Spinal Fever | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| 3—Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 4—Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5—Diphtheria | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 |
| 6—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 7—Other Forms of Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... |
| 8—Syphilitic Diseases | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| 9—Influenza | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... |
| 10—Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 11—Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 12—Acute Infective Encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 3 | ... |
| 13—Cancer of Bronchial Cavity and Oesophagus (M.) Uterus (F.) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 2 | 2 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 14—Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 2 | 3 3 | 6 | 5 |
| 15—Cancer of Breast | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 |
| 16—Cancer of all other sites | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 1 | 6 2 | 7 | 3 |
| 17—Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 18—Intra-cranium; Vascular Lesions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 5 | 8 14 | 13 | 19 |
| 19—Heart Disease | 1 | ... | ... | 1 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 7 | 19 17 | 32 | 27 |
| 20—Other Diseases of Circulatory System | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 4 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 21—Bronchitis | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 2 | 5 4 | 9 | 8 |
| 22—Pneumonia | 6 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 3 1 | 9 | 3 |
| 23—Other Respiratory Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| 24—Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 25—Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | 1 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 26—Appendicitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 27—Other Digestive Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 28—Nephritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 3 | 2 3 | 4 | 6 |
| 29—Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 30—Other Maternal Causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| 31—Premature Birth | 2 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 |
| 32—Congenital; Malformation; Birth Injuries; Infantile Disease | 2 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 4 |
| 33—Suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 34—Road Traffic Accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 35—Other Violent Causes | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 3 1 | 1 | 7 | 1 |
| 36—All Other Causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 9 5 | 11 | 5 |
| TOTALS | 11 10 | ... | 2 2 | 3 2 | 2 1 | 7 5 | 39 27 | 67 62 | 131 | 109 |

Sanitary Inspector's Report for 1945.

* * *

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my thirtieth Annual Report of the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1945.

The departmental work throughout the year has proceeded smoothly considering the many difficulties. Delay, however, was again evident in getting repairs executed as quickly as desired. Lack of skilled labour and the general shortage of building materials necessary for general housing rehabilitation purposes was evident. Our persistent efforts to obtain the execution of essential repairs continued with gratifying results.

Overcrowding is pronounced, and the demand for houses is increasing. The return of Service personnel to the existing limited family accommodation is adding to the general housing shortage. It must be borne in mind that the conditions have changed materially since they joined the Services. They are themselves years older, and other young members of the family are now adults. Moreover, many have brought wives or husbands to already limited accommodation. Separation of the sexes is impossible, and many of these young people are existing under conditions inconsistent with moral standards of privacy. The overcrowding survey of 1935 is obsolete, and only by a re-survey can a reasonably accurate ascertainment be obtained. There are over 500 applicants for Council houses on the books.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

An adequate supply of milk is produced or brought into the district. Retail purveyors on the register at the end of the year were 17 farmers, 5 dairymen and 39 retailers of bottled milk (13 pasteurised, 1 tuberculin tested, and 25 sterilised).

The cowsheds are all brick structures with one exception; this is of corrugated iron sheets. They are well maintained, and lime-

washing is carried out twice per year. All have a dairy, and a fairly high standard of cleanliness is maintained. Improvements and structural alterations have been carried out as follows:—

No. 1 Farm.

New metal boskins and drinking troughs. Increased lighting and ventilation, and concrete floors.

No. 2 Farm.

New drinking troughs and increased lighting and ventilation.

Samples of milk were submitted for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act. 35 samples were taken for bacteriological examination by your officers, 11 of which were found to be satisfactory, and 24 unsatisfactory. Periodical visits were paid to farms during the process of milking and at other times. Advice was given to the farmers, and circulars issued in an effort to obtain a pure milk supply.

Offensive Trades.

There is only one such business established in your area, the Knackers Yard, which is well kept. Since it was reconstructed there has been a marked improvement in every aspect. It is kept tidy, and all offensive matter is removed or destroyed frequently. Rodent infestations are periodically attacked, and there are fewer pests about these premises than at any time since the works were established.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Infested buildings and dwellings numbering 14 were sprayed with Zaldecide or D.D.T. during the year.

Eighteen houses infested with other forms of vermin were treated with Insecticides and Sulphur Dioxide.

Disinfection.

Disinfectants supplied free (liquid and powder), special bottles being provided. A charge of 6d. is made for the first bottle and is renewed free in exchange for the empty bottle. During the year 1,216 bottles were supplied to residents, 456 at the Health Office, 479 at

your distributing station at Platt Bridge, and 281 at your Hindley Green station—95 sales and 1,121 re-issues.

Infectious Disease.

Each house is visited and enquiries made relative to the source of infection, isolation of patient, contacts, and general home conditions. Recommendations are made and advice given regarding isolation and other domestic circumstances.

Public Library books from infected premises are taken over by the Public Health Department and disinfected, before being returned to the Library for re-distribution. Books in an unserviceable condition are destroyed.

All houses are disinfected after various forms of Infectious Disease including Tuberculosis, with a 5% solution of Formalin, although Formic Vap lamps in a gaseous form and sulphur candles are used in certain cases.

The Elementary Schools are sprayed internally with a disinfectant solution during each holiday vacation—Easter, Whitsun, Summer, October, and Christmas.

Schools disinfected—31.

During the year 80 houses were disinfected after Infectious Disease. 1,027 articles of clothing passed through the steam disinfecter.

Number of articles destroyed, chiefly flock beds and mattresses—21.

Provision and Replacement of Ashbins.

Ashbins falling into disrepair, numbering 237 were renewed through the activities of the Health Department. I am of opinion that the standard bin for general use is too large, and suggest that the Public Health Committee adopt a smaller type of bin which will be easier to handle by the collectors, less costly, and will tend to reduce the weekly quantity of refuse.

Meat Inspection.

All meat is now controlled by the Ministry of Food. The meat supply for your district comes mainly from the Wigan Slaughter Houses, which is the distribution centre for this area, the local slaughter houses having been out of commission since January, 1940.

Pig Keepers are allowed to slaughter their own reared animals by authority from the Ministry of Food.

Pigs (killed for home consumption) inspected—10.

Eight Licences to Slaughter animals were granted to slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| Canned Meat | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 169 lbs. |
| Canned Vegetables | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 tins. |
| Oranges | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 case. |
| Flour | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 48 lbs. |
| Tinned Milk | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 65 tins. |
| Tinned Soup | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 tins. |
| Cereals | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 96 pkts. |
| Jam | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 lbs. |
| Tinned Fruit | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 lbs. |
| Tinned Puddings | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 385 tins. |
| Tinned Fish | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11½ lbs. |
| Dessert Moulds | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 141 pkts. |
| Macaroni | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 lbs. |
| Barley Flakes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 lbs. |
| Eggs | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 520 |
| Margarine | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1½ lbs. |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| Butter | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. |
| Tripe | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 120 lbs. |
| Kippers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 56 lbs. |
| Home-killed Meat | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1931 lbs. |
| Sauces, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 bottles. |

Summary of Inspections and General Sanitary Work.

| | | |
|---|--------|-------|
| Nuisances brought forward from 1944 | .. | 456 |
| Nuisances reported to Committee during 1945 | 1,890 | |
| Nuisances abated during 1945 | ... .. | 1,712 |
| Number of letters sent | ... .. | 463 |
| Number of Preliminary Notices... | ... .. | 82 |
| Number of Statutory Notices | ... .. | 44 |
| Number of School Notices | ... .. | 54 |
| Number of Parents' Notices | ... .. | 15 |
| Number of Houses Disinfected... | ... .. | 80 |
| Number of Articles Disinfected | ... .. | 1,027 |
| Factories | ... .. | 38 |
| Knackers Yard | ... .. | 49 |
| Bakehouses | ... .. | 28 |
| Dairies and Cowsheds | ... .. | 57 |
| Picture Halls | ... .. | 2 |
| Number of Visits re Infectious Disease | ... | 66 |

Summary of Nuisances dealt with.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Defective Water Supply and Cistern and W.C. | |
| Pedestals | 112 |
| Defective and Choked Drains | 167 |
| Defective Roofs | 233 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Defective Gutters, Gullies and Downspouts ... | 182 |
| Irregular and Insanitary Yard Surfaces ... | 39 |
| Defective Brickwork to Yard and Other Walls | 127 |
| Chimney Stacks, Smoky Chimneys | 43 |
| Absence of Refuse Receptacles | 237 |
| Dampness | 42 |
| Defective Doors, Door Frames, Windows and Window Frames | 200 |
| Insufficient Light and Ventilation | 28 |
| Insanitary Slop Sinks and Waste Pipes ... | 45 |
| Defective Grates and Washboilers | 90 |
| Defective Plasterwork | 127 |
| Defective Floors | 54 |
| Insanitary Back Passages | — |
| Verminous Houses | 32 |
| Insanitary Condition of Premises | 14 |
| Living Vans so placed | 8 |
| Insanitary Condition of Factories and Work- shops | 7 |
| Insanitary Condition of Cowsheds and Dairies | 38 |
| Other Nuisances | 66 |

Factories and Workshops Act.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

| Premises. | Inspec- tions. | Number of Written Notices |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) |
| Factories (41) | 26 | 2 |
| Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) (6)... | 48 | 5 |
| Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises) (2) | 2 | — |
| | — | — |
| | 76 | 7 |
| | — | — |

(2) Defects Found.

| Particulars. | Found. | Remedied. |
|---|--------|-----------|
| Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:— | | |
| Want of Cleanliness | 4 | 4 |
| Other Nuisances | 3 | 3 |
| | — | — |
| TOTAL | 7 | 7 |
| | — | — |

The Keystone Paint Works, in a boiling process necessary to the manufacture of one of its products, emitted odours so as to be disconcerting, particularly in the neighbourhood of the works. The Company, on being approached, co-operated, and a plant to collect the gases and pass same through a condenser was planned and installed. This effected an improvement only. Subsequently, a conduit with a series of sprays was connected to the outlet of the condenser, without marked improvement. This flue has been continued to the furnace at the base of the tall chimney, with highly satisfactory result.

Bakeries and Bakehouses.

The number of bakeries and bakehouses in the district is 16. Periodic inspections are made. In a few instances it has been necessary to draw occupiers' attention to minor defects, and to the fact that limewashing was necessary. In each case these matters were given prompt attention.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

The following samples were submitted for analysis, many of which were obtained in conjunction with the County Sanitary Officer, Mr. J. C. Almond:—

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Milk | 12 |
| Ataxamine | 1 |
| Baking Powder | 1 |
| Malt Vinegar | 1 |
| Cod Liver Oil | 1 |
| Olive Oil | 1 |
| | — |
| | 17 |
| | — |

The sample of Olive Oil was found to contain 28 per cent of Aracus Oil, and the vendor of this sample was communicated with. The remainder of the above samples were found to be genuine.

Smoke Observations.

No action necessary.

Motor Ambulance Services.

Two ambulances serve the three Urban Districts of Hindley, Ince and Abram. They are stationed at the Cross Street Garage, Hindley, and are available at any time, day or night.

The mileage covered by the two vehicles during the year was 13,127.3, and 1,141 cases were removed to or from the various hospitals:—

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Manchester | ... | ... | ... | ... | 53 |
| Wigan | ... | ... | ... | ... | 788 |
| Leigh | ... | ... | ... | ... | 214 |
| Liverpool | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| Other cases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 66 |
| | | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | | 1,141 |
| | | | | | <hr/> |

Originally the Hindley cases were conveyed free, but in April, 1945, the Hindley Council instituted a fixed charge of 2/6 for each journey, excepting persons in receipt of the old age pension.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

A Rodent Operative was appointed in August, 1944, to serve the three Urban Districts of Hindley, Abram and Aspull. All cases of infestation were promptly dealt with. Poisons, gases and traps were employed to keep the pests in check. All man-holes in the district were pre-baited and where 'Takes' observed, poisons laid. Excellent results were obtained.

Kitchen Waste.

A bi-weekly collection of kitchen waste continues. 140 bins are placed at intervals throughout the area and appeals made to house-

holders to conserve and place all vegetable waste in the receptacles provided. The contents are conveyed to the Wigan Cleansing Depot for treatment. As there is a regular house-to-house collection made by Pig-Keepers outside of the Order, the quantity collected by the Local Authority does not reach the standard anticipated. The amount collected for the twelve months totalled 108 tons, 8 cwts., 2 qrs.

Licensing of Building Materials and Components.

The control of New Buildings and Repairs and Renewals to existing buildings came into operation in May, and from that time to the end of the year, 70 Licences were issued for a total sum of £4,345. The issuing of these Licences and the appendixes involves a considerable amount of work, and the time taken up with these duties is gradually assuming such proportions that we cannot cope with this particular service with the present staff. Together with the Licences special forms have to be completed for different commodities, otherwise, the Contractors would not be able to obtain the necessary materials.

I desire to tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Council, the Clerk, Surveyor, and other Officials and Members of the Staff, for their co-operation and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

THOS. FRANCE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Engineer and Surveyor's Office,
Town Hall,
Hindley,

12th February, 1946.

Particulars of Rainfall, etc., recorded at Platt Bridge Sewage Works
during the year ending 31st December, 1945.

Height of Rain Gauge—98.64 feet above Sea Level.

Height of Barometer—104.00 feet above Sea Level.

Area of Hindley—2612.182 statute acres.

| Month. | Mean Monthly Temp. | Mean Monthly Pressure. | No. of days on which rain fell. | Max. fall in 24 hrs. in inches. | Total Monthly Rainfall. in inches. |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| January ... | 33.0 | 29.36 | 12 | 29th .97 | 2.94 |
| February ... | 43.7 | 29.42 | 19 | 1st .91 | 3.99 |
| March ... | 46.0 | 29.76 | 8 | 19th .34 | 1.50 |
| April ... | 47.2 | 29.50 | 10 | 1st 1.02 | 2.53 |
| May ... | 54.1 | 29.29 | 16 | 20th 1.03 | 3.88 |
| June ... | 59.9 | 29.45 | 17 | 3rd .91 | 4.70 |
| July ... | 66.4 | 29.45 | 11 | 1st .52 | 2.68 |
| August ... | 62.6 | 29.46 | 12 | 29th .83 | 2.43 |
| September ... | 58.1 | 29.48 | 13 | 22nd .68 | 3.00 |
| October ... | 54.6 | 29.53 | 14 | 29th 1.10 | 6.02 |
| November ... | 46.3 | 29.74 | 9 | 7th .14 | 0.61 |
| December ... | 41.4 | 29.66 | 23 | 4th .53 | 2.91 |
| Totals for the year 1945 | ... | ... | 164 | | 37.19 |

Total weight of rain which fell in Hindley during the year 1945:—
10,344,299 tons.

Rainfall in inches:—

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 |
| 39.55 | 39.25 | 30.96 | 43.79 | 41.23 | 37.82 | 33.51 | 34.78 | 37.96 | 43.55 | 37.19 |

Thermometer Readings:

Barometer Readings.

Highest for the year 80°. July 13th. Highest for the year ... 30.05
Lowest for the year 18°. Jan. 29th. Lowest for the year ... 28.54

THOMAS W. COLLINS,

Acting Engineer and Surveyor,
Town Hall, Hindley.

